

The Baptist

CHALLENGE

a voice of independent Baptists

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WHOLE NO. 493

What Is Your Attitude Toward Jesus?

By Foy M. Moser

This question is vitally important. One before which all other questions fade into insignificance, for upon its answer depends the destiny of your soul. We become quite concerned over other questions, how shall I be able to support my family if I should lose my position, my health; or what shall become of my family if I should die; and

yet many leave this most important of all questions unanswered and go into eternity without Christ, and therefore without hope, unprepared to meet God.

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea He was not wanted, there was no room for Him in the inn,

the world's attitude toward Him was antagonistic. We read "When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where

Christ should be born" (Mt. 2:3-4). Then in the same chapter "Then Herod when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have

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Give A Gift To Your Church

By Emil Turner

By Dec. 1, Mary and I had already purchased most of the gifts we would give for Christmas. Impressed? Mary stays on top of that kind of stuff. If it were up to me, I'd be shopping at 9 p.m. Christmas Eve.

Have you decided what to give your church? Surely, you have given a generous gift to missions and to your pastor, but have you considered a gift to your church? □

Editor Hits Three Score and Twenty

Both my wife and I passed the "three score and ten" (Psa. 90:10) over 10 years ago, and we now have passed our 80th birthday November 15 and 23rd. Both of us are in good health as God has truly blessed us.

We covet your continued prayers for us. I am still active preaching in conferences, etc. and will continue to do so as long as the Lord en-

ables me to do so. One never retires from the ministry. Though one may need to retire from the pastorate, God's calling is forever or for as long as one's health will permit.

I am thankful that God still enables me to edit and publish **The Baptist Challenge** and place it on the Internet each month, and I hope to do so until the Lord takes me home.

Jesus The God Man

The following is from Barnes New Testament Commentary on Hebrews:

Jesus bore an exact resemblance to God. He was just such a being as we should suppose God to be, were he to become incarnate, and to act as a man. He was the embodied representation of the Deity. He was pure—like God. He was benevolent—like God. He spake to the winds

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Quiz The Pastor -- #42

Why Are We Not All Going To Be Saved By Christ?

By the late Nick Michalinos

Question: If Jesus died on the cross as the Savior of the world, why then are not all going to be saved?

Answer: I can understand how this may present a problem for you. Really, the solution is very simple, and we'll get to it in a moment. You are correct in referring to Christ as "the Saviour of the world," for He is designated as such twice in the New Testament. (Jn. 4:42; 1 Jn. 4:14).

The word "world" (kosmos) is of course referring to all of mankind. Thus, He is referred to as the "Saviour of all of mankind." We are told that "God so loved the world (kosmos) that he gave his only begotten Son" (Jn. 3:16). Again, we are told that Christ in His death is "the propitiation (satisfies God's offended justice) for our sins; and not for our's

only, but also for the sins of the *whole world* (kosmos)" (1 Jn. 2:2; 4:10.)

Here, we can plainly see that provision for salvation, and the forgiveness of our sins was fully wrought by Christ as "he died for *our* sins," and "was raised again for our justification" (Rom. 4:24; 1 Cor. 15:3-4). All that needed to be done in behalf of mankind in order to satisfy the demands of a just God whom all have sinned against, was fully met by our Lord Jesus in His death and resurrection.

Now, this brings us to the place of answering your question, "Why then, are not all going to be saved?" We must remember there is a difference between *provision* and *possession*. It is true that Christ *provided* salvation for the world (kosmos), but only those in the world who

exercise "repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 20:21) will *possess* and benefit from this salvation.

"God's not willing that any should perish" (2 Pet. 3:19) for He "will have all men to be saved" (1 Tim. 2:4), but is conditioned by faith in Him as Savior. "Faith" is the hand that reaches forth, and appropriates the divine provision of salvation!

Water may be provided for the thirsty, but it must be appropriated or possessed in order to bring benefit. Medicine may be available to heal the afflicted, but it must be taken in order to do any good. Knowledge about the benefits of water or medicine will not do the needy any good. They must be taken within in order to benefit the individual in need.

Even so, simple knowledge alone *about* Christ and the gospel facts will not bring salvation to the lost sinner. We must make *the* Savior *our* Savior by making contact with Him by simple belief in Him as Savior. It is a personal faith in a personal Savior in order to have a personal salvation.

Paul put it this way, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31). John states, "To as many as received him (as Savior), to them (only) gave he power (right) to become the sons

of God" (Jn. 1:12). Our belief in Him as Savior Divinity protects us from "perishing" (Jn. 3:16), from "condemnation" (Jn. 3:18), and "from wrath" (Jn. 3:36).

Our unbelief invites all three of those terrors eternally upon us. ■

BARNES . . .

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and storms—like God. He healed diseases—like God. He raised the dead—like God. He wielded the power which God only can wield, and he manifested a character in all respects like that which we should suppose God would evince, if he appeared in human flesh, and dwelt among men. And this is saying much. It is, in fact, saying that the account in the Gospels is real, and that the Christian religion is true.

Uninspired men could never have drawn such a character as that of Jesus Christ, unless that character had actually existed. The attempt has often been made to describe God, or to show how he would speak and act if he came down to earth. Thus the Hindoos speak of the incarnations of Vishnu; and thus Homer, and Virgil, and most of the ancient poets, speak of the appearance of the gods, and describe them as they were supposed to appear. But how different from the character of the

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THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE

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God's Masterpiece Man's Body -- #31

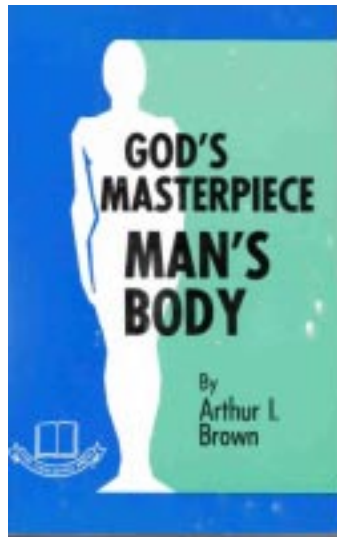
Some Mistakes Of Scientists

By Arthur I. Brown

In the preceding article I told you some facts about two of the amazing ductless glands, the adrenal and the thyroid. Ductless glands secrete and send into the blood stream substances known as hormones — chemical messengers carrying instructions to different parts of the body. We found that one of the two chemicals formed in the adrenal gland is epinephrine or adrenin — one of the strongest poisons found anywhere — so powerful, in fact, that it must be diluted down to 1 to 2,000,000,000 parts in the body. It has a number of effects. It dilates the pupils; it contracts the small blood vessels; by contracting these capillaries, it restricts the amount of blood to the part, thus reducing congestion, as in the nose where “nose drops” (usually containing this chemical) will decrease the swelling and so relieve breathing, at least temporarily; it raises blood pressure; the tone of the heart muscle is increased; it releases glycogen from the liver and this is converted into sugar; it relaxes bronchial spasm and so gives relief in asthma; in operations where local anesthesia is used, as in removing teeth or tonsils, a

few drops of adrenaline added to the anesthetic render the tissues anemic, thus reducing blood loss; and they also slow down the absorption of the anesthetic, thus prolonging its effect; in cases where the heart suddenly stops beating, adrenaline may be injected directly into this organ. Because of the resulting stimulation of the heart muscle, many apparently dead people — that is, whose heart action has not ceased longer than two or three minutes — have been revived and restored. This brief summary of its uses is enough to show the marvelous power of the remarkable chemical product of the tiny gland which lies at the top of each kidney.

I also told you about the thyroid gland and its thyroxin content. Thyroxin is a combination of iodine and an amino-acid which regulates the combustion in the body furnace. Where it is over-active, it burns up the body fuel at a rapid rate



with certain pronounced results. It stimulates the glands of the small intestine and also the sympathetic nervous system, increasing its irritability.

When the thyroid enlarges and secretes too much hormone, a condition arises which is known as hyper-thyroidism or Graves' Disease, after the physician who described it first in 1835. The symptoms of this disease are caused by the excitation of the sympathetic nervous system. There are four chief signs: enlargement of the gland, prominence of the eyeball (which may be absent), palpitation of the heart, and a fine, involuntary tremor which is best seen when the arms are extended and the fingers spread wide apart. The blood pressure is raised, and the individual perspires easily, is excitable and irritable, with a tendency to vomiting, and usually a marked loss in weight.

I described to you what happens in infants with a degenerated thyroid gland

or none at all and we saw there was stunted growth, physical and mental, a condition known as Cretinism. In adults with acquired degeneration of the gland, the disease is known as myxoedema, both of them curable by doses of the glandular substance.

Hypothyroidism is a condition in which there exists a reverse of the conditions found in hyperthyroidism. There is a slowing of growth and all body activity: loss of muscle and nerve tone, lowered blood pressure, drowsiness, increase in weight, dry and thick skin, and sluggish mentality.

The Parathyroid Gland consists of small pieces of tissue, four to six in number, weighing less than a gram, given their name because they lie along side of the thyroid, either at the side or just behind. They regulate the blood calcium level, determining the transport of calcium from the bones into the blood stream and the tissues, and thence to the kidneys. The calcium taken in the food is deposited, first in the bones, and then delivered to the blood as required. If para-thyroid hormone is lack-

(See **BODY** on page 12)



The Glory of Sickness

By George Wells Arms

Jesus said, *“This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby”* (Jn. 11:4).

Louis E. Bisch, M.D., wrote an article entitled, “Turn Your Sickness Into an Asset.” “Any serious illness,” says Dr. Bisch, “should be regarded as an opportunity to gather dividends and generate energies that mere health cannot possibly bestow.” He goes on to tell of Dr. Edward Livingston Trudeau, Eugene O’Neill, Florence Nightingale, and others whose sickness became a distinct turning point and blessing in their lives.

Our Lord, who takes us much more into the mystery of suffering, goes far deeper and declares that sickness may be for the glory of God. When they sent and told Him that His friend Lazarus was sick, what strange sympathy He gave! How unlike the kind of “get well” card *we* would send. I wonder if Lazarus did not receive so much out of that experience, which thus enriched him, that he would not have given it up for anything in the world. At all events, this is the word

for you who are smitten with serious illness and temporarily laid aside, or enfolded in the sheeptime of shut-ins. These things may abound to His glory. Further, they may be both for your enrichment of life and your joy.

In saying this, may I assure you that I am not speaking merely from theory, but out of a very personal experience that confirms to me the words of the Book. I have spent some 30 weeks, on different occasions, in hospitals as a patient with great suffering having my life despaired of more than once. The longest period during which I was unable to carry on was ten months. It was a very bitter disappointment to be struck down in the prime of life and usefulness, with a family of little children, but it has become one of the richest experiences of my life. I would not now exchange it for a year of travel, nor anything else of which I can think. Like

(See **SICK** on page 21)

The Rich Man And Lazarus

By Kathryn Parrish

There is a true story which Jesus told,
Of a rich man in purple, with silver and gold;
And a beggar named Lazarus who lay at the gate,
Longing for crumbs from the rich man’s plate.

Now the rich man fared sumptuously, as I recall,
Showing no mercy for Lazarus at all;
Yea, the dogs, with more compassion than he,
Licked the sores of the beggar in his misery.

But then the scene changed and things were reversed,
No longer in misery was Lazarus immersed;
For he died and was carried into paradise,
Trusting the Saviour who paid the great price.

The rich man died, too, and to hell he was sent,
To suffer forever in flames and torment;
For mercy he begged and that Lazarus might come,
With a drop of water to cool his poor tongue.

But the rich man cried for mercy too late,
For a great gulf is fixed and there’s no escape;
All help, all hope, all good things were ended,
For to those in hell, there’s no mercy extended.

Then the rich man thought of his brothers in sin,
Who would soon be in hell, tormented like him;
So he prayed that one from the dead be sent,
To warn his five brothers, that they might repent.

But one from the dead they would not heed,
If Moses and the prophets they did not believe;
For they told of the Christ who would die for sin,
And save all from hell who trust in Him.

Now Jesus told this story that we might escape,
And not be partakers of the rich man’s fate;
Heaven, not hell, is my destiny,
For I’ve trusted in Jesus who died for me!



‘In God We Trust:’ Our Money’s Message for 141 Years

Removing the motto “In God We Trust” from American currency would mark the end of a tradition that began during the Civil War to rescue the country from “the ignominy of heathenism” and was expanded in the 1950s to combat the philosophy of communism. The target of atheist Michael Newdow’s lawsuit is one of many phrases that have been printed on U.S. money since Congress in 1787 authorized the first American one-cent piece to display “Mind Your Business” on the front and “We Are One” on the back.

During the early 1800s, “E Pluribus Unum” (“Out of Many, One”) was placed on coins by the U. S. Mint, though this was not mandated by law. David Lange, research director of the National Guaranty Corporation (NGC), told **Cybercast News Service** that the phrase was dropped during the 1830s because the mint director believed it was redundant with “United States of America.” According to the website of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, the motto “In God We Trust” was first placed on United States coins

“largely because of the increased religious sentiment existing during the Civil War.” While Treasury Secretary Salmon Chase received many appeals on the topic, the first was a letter sent on Nov. 13, 1861, by Rev. Mark Watkinson from Ridleyville, Pa., who proposed “the recognition of the Almighty God in some form on our coins” even as the nation was being torn apart by internal conflict.”

What if our Republic were not shattered beyond reconstruction?” the Baptist minister asked in his missive. “Would not the antiquaries of succeeding centuries rightly reason from our past that we were a heathen nation?” He then suggested replacing “the goddess of liberty” on U.S. coins with a design that included an “all-seeing eye, crowned with a halo; beneath this eye the American flag,” as well as the words “God, Liberty, Law.” “This would make a beautiful coin, to which no possible citizen could object,” Watkinson added. “This would relieve us from the ignominy of heathenism. This would place us openly under the Divine protection we have personally claimed.” A week later,

Chase wrote to James Pollock, director of the Mint at Philadelphia, that “the trust of our people in God should be declared on our national coins.” Therefore, Pollock was instructed to “cause a device to be prepared without unnecessary delay with a motto expressing in the fewest and tersest words possible this national recognition.”

In December of 1863, Pollock submitted designs to Chase for new coins with the mottoes “Our Country,” “Our God” or “God, Our Trust.” Chase responded that the phrase should read “In God We Trust,” and Congress approved the design on April 22, 1864. Later that year, a two-cent piece became the first U.S. coin to carry the motto.” Since then, the motto must appear on all silver and gold coins by law, this being extended to the base metal coins which have since replaced the silver issues,” Lange of NGC said, even though “no law has ever been passed requiring its use on the minor coins (cents and nickels).” That loophole came into play in 1883, when Chief Engraver Charles Barber chose to drop “In God We Trust”

from his new design for the five-cent piece and bring back “E Pluribus Unum.” “No official notice was made of this change, nor was there any public outcry,” Lange said. The next controversy regarding the motto came in 1907, when President Theodore Roosevelt commissioned sculptor Augustus St. Gaudens to prepare new designs for the gold eagle and double eagle, without the words “In God We Trust” because Roosevelt considered it sacrilegious to put the Lord’s name on something as common as money. However, when the new coins were released the following year, the public outrage was so great that not only did Congress order the motto restored, the Act of May 18, 1908, also made the phrase mandatory on all coins upon which it had previously appeared. “In God We Trust” was then added to the one-cent coin in 1909 and the 10-cent piece in 1916.

After 55 years, the motto returned to the nickel in 1938, when the phrase was included among the items specified in a design

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MONEY . . .

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competition for a new coin featuring the images of Thomas Jefferson, the third U.S. president, and his home in Monticello, Va. "This decision was made by the Treasury Department, probably because the motto by then appeared on all of the other current coins," Lange noted, though he added that government officials probably remembered the incident in 1907. *'A single man with a determined mind'*

While all U.S. coins have carried "In God We Trust" since 1938, the motto was not displayed on paper money — which was introduced during the Civil War to temporarily replace coins in a metal shortage — until Matthew Rothert gave an offering at a church service in 1953. As Rothert dropped a bill into the collection plate, he noticed that it didn't display



the same motto as the coins. He wondered why, especially since paper money had surpassed metal coins as the most common form of U.S. currency. On Nov. 25, 1953, Rothert sent Treasury Secretary George Humphrey a letter noting that people in foreign countries, even those behind the communist Iron Curtain, were anxious to obtain the currency of the United States of America."

President Eisenhower puts primary emphasis on religion and spiritual values," he wrote. "People abroad, as well as at home, should see and recognize this emphasis on our most popular medium of exchange, our paper money."

One of Humphrey's assistants responded to Rothert's letter, suggesting that such an action would best be taken by Congress. Undaunted, Rothert began

writing hundreds of letters to senators, newspapers and even the president. As word of his campaign grew, he received support from a number of Christian organizations. Eisenhower approved a joint resolution of Congress on July 30, 1956, declaring "In God We Trust" the national motto of the United States, and the phrase was first used on paper money in 1957, when it appeared on the one-dollar silver certificate."

Through the persistent efforts, flood of letters and speeches made by Matt Rothert, the phrase 'In God We Trust' is now on all paper money currency of the United States," said Aaron Martin on the Arkansas Memory Project [website](#). "The bill that was passed helped keep our faith alive worldwide, but more importantly, it showed how a single man with a determined mind has the power to change some of the biggest things in the world," Martin added. □

The Revival We Need

By A. C. Dixon

*"My soul cleaveth unto the dust. Quicken thou me according to thy word" (Psa. 119:25).
"My soul cleaveth deliver me: quicken me according to thy word" (Psa. 119:154).*

"I am afflicted very much: quicken me, O Lord, according unto thy word" (Psa. 119:107).

"Plead my cause, and

These Scriptures give us three things: (1) The Definition of a True Revival; (2) Our Need of such a Revival; (3) How

to get it.

The True Revival Defined

It is a quickening according to God's word; not according to some man's magnetism or ec-

centricity. A talented evangelist may swoop down upon a community, and make a stir by sharp, striking sayngs, draw large crowds, and quicken a kind of interest; but such a (See **REVIVAL** on page 7)

REVIVAL . . .

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quickenings may be according to the evangelist, not according to the word of God. Now, what we need is an increase of spiritual life along the line of Scripture teaching. A revival means a giving of more life. David had life; what he wished was life more abundantly. We have love for God and men; what we need is more of the same quality; but be sure that it is love according to the word of God. "This is the love of God, that we keep his commandments." Obedience not sentimentalism or unctuous joy, is love. Such obedience to God will be linked with unselfish ministry to man.

A missionary by the name of Crossett died recently in China. He was known among the Chinese as the "Christian Buddha," — the highest title of honor a Buddhist could give him. He chose a life of poverty, because he did not have time to make money. He spent his days and nights with the sick and the poor and the anxious. He led many of them to Christ. He thought not of himself, but of others. He loved men, not because of the ties of kinship or nationality, but because they were men with immortal souls precious in the sight of God. Such love we need in abundance — a love producing a zeal that consumes us — a love that burdens us for the

salvation of men.

Faith. — We need a quickening of faith; faith in the power of the God of Pentecost to convict and convert three thousand in a day. Faith, not in a process of culture by which we hope to train children into a state of salvation, but faith in the mighty God who can quicken a dead soul into life in a moment; faith in moral and spiritual revolution rather than evolution.

Conviction. — We need conviction. Looseness is in the air, and we know who the prince of the power of the air is. There is a charity prevalent which rejoices not in the truth. We need men and women who believe something definite, and are willing to live and die for their faith. Is there on earth today a John Knox willing to face Queen Mary and declare to her that she is an idolatress? Is there among our young women an Anne Askew, who, rather than profess what she does not believe, that the real presence is in the wafer, would go to the Tower and have her bones crushed on the rack, and then from the stake in Smithfield go up to God in a chariot of fire? Is there among our older women an Elizabeth Gaunt, who, while the thumbscrews are on her thumbs and fingers, tightened until the blood spurts, refuses to worship saints and bow down to the Host? Have we any John Philpots and John Rogers left in our ministry, who are

willing to burn at the stake rather than give even silent consent to soul-destroying errors? Have we not, on the other hand, a namby-pamby, flabby sort of faith — a jelly-fish conviction, without any backbone? Is not our religion too much like a ball of wax — put into any shape by touch with things about it? We need a revival of religion of solidity and substance — a religion that resists evil and error, and, with the gentleness and faithfulness of Christ, is true to itself and to its Author.

Conscientiousness. — There is a great need also of conscientiousness — a religion not of the hot-house, which thrives under the heat of song and sermon and services on Sunday, but of sturdy growth, that will flourish in the soil and atmosphere of everyday business. Honest merchants, truthful lawyers, faithful preachers, loyal citizens, devoted mothers, wives, and husbands, obedient children, industrious workmen, are the needs of today and every day. A quickening of conscientiousness that gives a tender conscience and makes us ready to do the right at all hazards, is better than a season of froth and foam of feeling or rapturous joy. The grocer who went home from church and burnt his bushel, because he knew that it was a false measure, received more benefit from the sermon than if he had

gone home, clapped his hands, and shouted hal-lalujah, without thinking of his dishonesty. Such a revival as that will last. It will not be like the beautiful snowflower of Siberia, which comes up through the snow, and perishes in a few hours under the withering blast of evening. The flowers of faith and joy which blossom one day and wither the next are not of the species of the rose of Sharon or the lily of the valley.

Our Need Of Such A Revival

1. To lift us out of the dust and help us to shake off all that clings to us. — "My soul cleaveth unto the dust. Quicken thou me according to thy word." Dust is the symbol of earthiness as opposed to heavenly-mindedness. David's soul had an attraction for dust. Drooping or dead things hold dust. It will not stick so easily to living objects; and the cure for this dust magnetism is a larger infusion of life. The sick eagle wallows in the dust; it has not strength of wing to rise and shake it off; but the eagle full of life soars above the dust and gazes into the sun. Christians who are today wallowing in the dust of worldliness need an infusion of strong healthy life, that they may "mount up on wings as eagles."

(See **REVIVAL** on page 13)



Parental Rights Decision Called ‘Cause for Great Alarm’ — The Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling denying parents the right to opt their elementary school-age children out of a public school sex survey is no surprise to pro-family advocates who say they’ve been fighting courts’ encroachment on parental rights for decades. They warn that the decision must be overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court. Circuit Judge Stephen Reinhardt and two of his colleagues ruled last week that “... there is no fundamental right of parents to be the *exclusive* provider of information regarding sexual matters to their children.” The case, *Fields v. Palmdale*, involved a “psychological survey” given to first-, third- and fifth-graders that asked them questions about “touching my private parts too much,” “getting scared or upset when I think about sex” and how they feel *when* they “can’t stop thinking about sex.” Parents were asked for permission to give the survey but were not informed of its sexual content. — CNS

World News Roundup

‘Sex Survey’ Superintendent Criticizes Parents’ Motives — The superintendent of the California school district involved in a controversial 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling over parental rights has questioned the motives of the parents involved in the case. On Wednesday, a three-judge panel from the 9th Circuit Court dismissed the appeal filed by parents who had sued the Palmdale School District over a sex survey handed to students in the 1st, 3rd and 5th grades. The court, in upholding a lower court decision, ruled that “there is no fundamental right of parents to be the exclusive provider of information regarding sexual matters to their children.” Furthermore, parents have no fundamental right to influence their children on sexual matters “in accordance with their personal and religious values and beliefs,” the court stated. The survey, handed out to the pre-pubescent students in 2002, asked questions pertaining to sex, including the frequency of “having sex feelings in my body,” “touching my private parts too much,” and “washing myself because I feel dirty on the inside.” — CNS

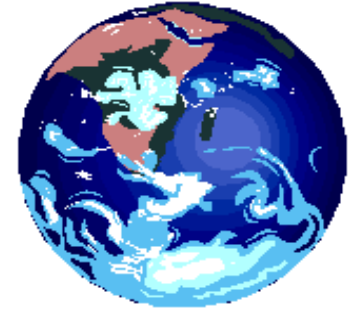
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House-Passed Pro-

erty Rights Bill Wins Cautious Praise. -- U.S. House passage of a bill to bypass a Supreme Court decision on the issue of property rights is a “step back in the right direction,” according to the Libertarian Party of Connecticut. The bill, which was approved 376 to 38, would make any government using eminent domain to seize private property for commercial use ineligible for federal funding for up to two fiscal years. Property rights advocates are still steamed over the Supreme Court’s ruling earlier this year in the *Kelo v. City of New London* case. A majority of justices ruled that governments could seize the home, small business or other private property from one citizen and transfer it to another private citizen if the local community’s economy would benefit from the transfer. Soon after the *Kelo* verdict was rendered, lawmakers in Washington introduced bipartisan legislation to limit the power of eminent domain, which was expanded to private businesses by the case.

* * *

Saudi Arabia Still Persecuting People for Their Faith. — Just days before Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is due to visit Saudi Arabia, the State



Department on Tuesday will release a report naming the oil-rich Islamic kingdom as one of eight violators of religious freedom around the globe. For the second consecutive year, the department’s annual report will designate Saudi Arabia as a “country of particular concern” (CPC) because of its restrictions on the freedom to worship. Under religious freedom legislation enacted in 1998, CPC designation can result in the imposition of penalties including economic sanctions, although the secretary of state also has the right to waive action. Following months of delays, Rice last September authorized a 180-day waiver of action against Saudi Arabia, “in order to allow additional time for the continuation of discussions leading to progress on important religious freedom issues.” Two other countries were named CPCs for the first time last year — Vietnam and Eritrea. On Vietnam, the U.S. reached an agreement with the communist government in May to work towards im-

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La Voz Del Desierto



La palabra Navidad proviene de la palabra “Natividad,” que viene del Latin “Nativitatem,” que significa “nacimiento.” El mundo religioso la aplica propiamente al nacimiento de Jesucristo, pero cuando la gente se fijan en el jolgorio que tiene lugar alrededor de diciembre 25, tienen la incómoda sensación de que algo no está del todo bien. Si hablamos contra la comercialización de la Navidad, la mayoría de la gente estaría de acuerdo enseguida. La gente es muy consciente de lo que ellos consideran que son los excesos materialistas de la celebración de la Navidad, y les encantan los sermones sobre el “verdadero” significado de la Navidad. Pero ¿cuál es el verdadero significado de la Navidad? ¿De dónde vino? ¿Cómo se originó? ¿Fueron sus principios cristianos o paganos?

En el Nuevo Testamento no hay en absoluto

ninguna indicación de que los primeros cristianos observaran la Navidad. Puede demostrarse en la historia de la iglesia que, probablemente durante los primeros 300 años después del nacimiento de Cristo, los cristianos no superaron nada de la celebración de la Navidad. ¿Cómo entonces, recibimos nuestros días festivos con sus costumbres y tradiciones, la Navidad, así como la Pascua, Semana Santa, y los “días a los santos?”

Cada uno de estos días festivos nos ha llegado desde la antigua Babilonia, por medio de Roma, a través de la Iglesia Católica Romana. Tómese, por ejemplo, la fecha misma de la Navidad, diciembre 25. Como usted probablemente sabe, nadie conoce realmente la fecha del nacimiento de Cristo, y diciembre 25 es una fecha altamente improbable. Entonces, ¿Por qué se escogió diciembre 25? Bien, los babilonios celebraban la victoria de su dios sol en el momento del año en que los días comenzaban a alargarse

nuevamente. A la copia romana de esta costumbre babilónica se la llamaba saturnalia, la fiesta del dios sol. Por siglos fue una abominación para los cristianos. Era tiempo de orgías, borracheras y grandes fiestas, igual que se celebra hoy en día. Para atraer a los paganos al “cristianismo” la Iglesia Católica Romana ordenó en el siglo V, la observación de la Navidad el 25 de diciembre, para sustituir la antigua fiesta pagana romana del nacimiento del dios sol (*Enciclopedia Británica, Enciclopedia Americana, Enciclopedia de Religión Católica, Enciclopedia Quillet*).

En la lengua inglesa a esta fiesta se le llama “Christmas.” Mucha gente ni siquiera sabe que la misma palabra *Christmas* es una combinación de *Christ* y *mass* que quiere decir “Misa de Cristo.” *Christmas* es la celebración católica romana de una misa particular en honor del nacimiento de Cristo. ¿Cuál es el significado de la misa? En esencia, la misa católica romana es una

negación de la suficiencia de la expiación de Cristo. Profesa ser una representación del sacrificio de Cristo por los pecados. Es una negación del evangelio (Heb. 9:12, 24-26; 10:10, 12, 14). La Iglesia Católica tiene muchas otras misas, como la de Miguel, pero es su *Christmas*, la que los protestantes y hasta algunas iglesias bautistas han elegido para observar.

El argumento favorito para defender esta fecha por algunos cristianos es: “Todo lo que yo hago es celebrar el nacimiento de mi Salvador, y aprovechar la ocasión para testificar a otros.” Si lo que quiere es celebrar el nacimiento de Cristo (aunque en ninguna parte de la Biblia se manda eso), ¿por qué no celebrarlo en marzo, o en julio, o mejor aún, en *septiembre*, como algunos estudiosos de la Biblia aseguran que es más probablemente que sea el mes en que Cristo nació? Además el cristiano debe reconocer que al celebrar la Navidad está siguiendo una práctica católica, pues

(Vea **NAVIDAD** en la pág. 10)

Noticias Alrededor Del Mundo

Servicio de Rentas Internas (IRS) Siglas En Inglés) Investiga Organización del Sanador de la Fe, Benny Hinn. — Una investigación, la cual se ha prolongado por espacio de un año, de parte del Servicio de Rentas Internas de los Estados Unidos, se ha centrado en el ministerio del flamante y ostentoso curador de la fe Benny Hinn y preguntas sobre las operaciones y finanzas de su organización según un informe reciente circulado el pasado miércoles, 6 de julio, por el periódico Dallas Morning News (Noticias de la Mañana de Dallas). Las preguntas centrales bajo revisión están relacionadas con el estado de exención contributiva de la organización de Hinn como iglesia. El Servicio de Rentas Internas declinó discutir el caso, y el informe del periódico dice que “aún no está claro si las preocupaciones de la agencia por el ministerio, quienes se estima recaudan más de \$100 millones anualmente, están cerca de resolverse o se abrirá una auditoria.” — RNS

Compañerismo Bautista Cooperativo Elimina Nombre de “Jesucristo” de su Constitución. — La organización Compañerismo Bautista Cooperativo (Cooperative Baptist Fellowship), alianza de unas 1,800 congregaciones que se oponen al liderazgo conservado de la Convención Bautista del Sur, removió la mención del nombre de Jesucristo de su constitución en su última reunión anual, reportaron los medios Bautistas. Previamente, el propósito señalado por la alianza era el de unir a los Bautista “para que el Evangelio de Jesucristo sea dispersado a través del mundo en obediencia a la gran Comisión.” El nuevo lenguaje dice que el propósito es “servir a los cristianos e iglesias según descubren y satisfacen su misión dada por Dios.” Los 2,300 votantes derrotaron dos propuestas del piso para referir el cambio a un comité. La alianza aprobó el nombramiento de la reverenda Joy Yee, pastora de la Iglesia Bautista Nuevo Convenio de San Francisco, California como su nueva

moderadora. Yee es la primera pastora en servir en dicho puesto. Emmanuel McCall, pastor retirado del área de Atlanta, Georgia; fue aprobado como moderador-electo. McCall es el primer afro-americano en ser elegido para dicha posición. — AP

NAVIDAD . . . (Vino de la pág. 9)

fue la Iglesia Católica quien fijó la fecha y ordenó la celebración de la Navidad el 25 de diciembre. ¿Qué sucede con las fiestas y el jologorio y el libertinaje que tienen lugar en esta época del año, supuestamente en relación con el nacimiento de Cristo? ¿Por qué el licor fluye más libremente en esta época del año que en cualquier otra? ¿Por qué hay más accidentes automovilísticos durante la “época de las fiestas” que en cualquier otra? Podemos sutillar sobre los orígenes del árbol de Navidad y la escena del nacimiento, pero una cosa es cierta: Si usted usa la encarnación de nuestro Señor como excusa para el jologorio y el libertinaje, puede estar seguro de que cosechará el juicio de Dios.

La Navidad es el único momento en que una persona impía puede ser religiosa sin peligro. A la mayoría de la gente le gusta hacer algo religioso de vez en cuando para acallar su conciencia y convencerse de que son realmente buenas personas después

de todo; y la Navidad les proporciona la oportunidad perfecta para hacerlo. Es completamente seguro participar y tener el espíritu de la Navidad sin tener el Espíritu Santo, sin tener la mente de Cristo.

Muchas iglesias cristianas, aun bautistas fundamentales, tienen su programa y cena de Navidad sin excesos, ni borracheras, en sustitución de las mundanas posadas. ¡*Qué bonito!* Sea como sea que se practique, no deja de ser una participación de una fiesta de origen pagano. Se podrán ofrecer muchas excusas para esta celebración, pero no podremos eludir la sentencia de Romanos 2:1: “Por lo cual eres inexcusable, oh hombre, quienquiera que seas tú que juzgas; ... te condenas a tí mismo; porque tú que juzgas haces lo mismo.” Porque critican a los católicos por sus tradiciones, pero muy convenientemente, siguen una de ellas: la de la Navidad.

2 Timoteo 3:14-17

“Toda Escritura inspirada divinamente y útil para enseñar, para redargüir, para corregir, para instituir en justicia, Para que el hombre de Dios sea perfecto, enteramente instruido para toda buena obra.”

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WNR . . .

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proving religious freedom conditions. Eritrea has been subjected to restrictions on the import of defense-related articles — the first sanctions to be imposed under the 1998 International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA). U.S. officials were quoted Monday as saying the new report would once again name as CPCs last year's three newcomers to the list, as well as CPCs of longer standing — China, Iran, Burma, North Korea and Sudan. Home to Islam's two most revered sites, in Mecca and Medina, Saudi Arabia views itself as guardian of the faith. It is ruled by a monarchy with a legal system based on Islamic (sharia) law and committed to the fundamentalist Wahhabi ideology. "Freedom of religion does not exist," the State Department said in its last annual report. "It is not recognized or protected under the country's laws, and basic religious freedoms are denied to all but those who adhere to the state-sanctioned version of Sunni Islam." Reported violations include torture, cruel and degrading treatment, detention without trial, coercive measures against women, and abuses by the notorious religious police. Last February, an American human rights group published a report accusing the Saudi authorities of

spreading propaganda inciting anti-Christian and anti-Jewish hatred among Muslims in the U.S. Despite the State Department's assessment that "freedom of religion does not exist" — arguably the most serious evaluation it makes for any country — for four years it declined to designate the kingdom as a CPC, despite pressure from religious freedom campaigners. The decision last year eventually to add Saudi Arabia to the list was therefore welcomed, but subsequent delays have added to campaigners' frustrations. The department's announcement on the 180-day waiver last September prompted the U.S. Commission for International Religious Freedom to say that in the absence of demonstrable progress by the Saudis, it was renewing recommendations for steps against Riyadh. They included restrictions on exporting "dual-use" items to Saudi agencies responsible for violating religious freedom and prohibiting visits to the U.S. by any Saudi officials "responsible for propagating globally an ideology that explicitly promotes hate, intolerance, and human rights violations." The commission is a body established by the IRFA to give independent recommendations to the executive branch and Congress. Rice is due to visit Saudi Arabia later this week, on a trip that also takes her to other

Middle East and Asian countries. The department said she would "consult with the Saudis on a variety of issues including support for democracy reform and counter terrorism." Apart from the eight CPCs due to be named on Tuesday, the U.S. Commission for International Religious Freedom has also been urging the department to add to the list three more Islamic countries, Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.

* * *

Texas Becomes 19th State With Marriage Amendment, Parental Notification. — Texas voters overwhelmingly approved a constitutional marriage amendment Nov. 8, but Maine citizens voted to keep a new "gay rights" law and Californians rejected a proposal requiring teens to notify a parent before getting an abortion.

* * *

Kansas Board Votes To Inform Students of Evolution Controversy. — The Kansas State Board of Education voted 6-4 Nov. 8 to alter the science standards in public schools in favor of Intelligent Design, further igniting a nationwide battle over how much students are taught about the controversy surrounding the theory of evolution. Science standards, required by Kansas

law to be updated regularly, are used to develop student achievement tests for measuring how well schools are performing in that subject area. Local school boards and administrators determine the curriculum at their schools, but by deciding what students are expected to know for state assessment tests, the state standards will most likely affect what students are taught. "These are absolutely great science standards. I have no doubt about it, positively no doubt whatsoever," board chairman Steve Abrams of Arkansas City said, according to The Wichita Eagle newspaper. Conservative board members sought to give students a balanced view of evolution, but critics said they were only promoting a "re-packaged form of creationism" in alluding to Intelligent Design. — BP

* * *

Pakistani Muslims Set Two Churches Afire. — Hundreds of Muslims attacked and burned two churches in Pakistan on Saturday after reports that a Christian man had desecrated Islam's holy book. No one was injured in the blazes. A school, student hostel and the home of a priest were also torched by the crowd of about 1,500 Muslims near the town of Sangla Hill,

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BODY . . .

(Continued from page 3)

ing, the body becomes deficient in calcium, which tends in its action to prevent neuromuscular irritability. So, when its amount is lessened, there are first slight twitching or cramps of the muscles, developing into severe spasms and convulsions, a condition known as tetany which, if not controlled, results in death.

This condition may be treated by administering calcium lactate by the mouth, or by injecting a potent parathyroid extract. Vitamin D should also be added to the diet, as it stimulates parathyroid activity, and so increases the level of blood calcium.

It sometimes happens that the parathyroids are over active, causing changes in bones and joints. There is an increase in blood calcium and decrease in inorganic phosphorus in the blood. There is pain over the bones and joints with a pronounced tendency to bony tumors and fractures.

The Thymus Body is an organ of fetal and infantile life, situated below the thyroid, being chiefly in the thorax, and extending downward in the direction of the heart. It is two and one-half inches long at the age of two years, but after that time slowly dwindles, leaving scarcely perceptible remnants during adult life. When this gland persists or

enlarges, it causes infantilism, but little is yet known about that organ.

The next on our list is the Pituitary Gland, one of the most important structures in the body. Another name for it is Hypophysis cerebri. It is situated beneath the brain, lying in a hollowed-out place in the floor of the skull known as the sella turcica — the Turk's saddle, so named from the shape of the cavity. This gland consists of two lobes, the anterior and the posterior. The front or anterior lobe is the growth gland of the body, controlling the size and proportions of the bones and structures generally. When this portion of the gland fails to secrete its growth hormone, the individual will not be of normal size — but a dwarf or a midget. Giants always have an over-active and enlarged anterior pituitary gland. At first there may be great strength accompanying the large size, but this is usually followed by weakness, tiredness, and loss of mental alertness.

There is evidence to indicate that the anterior pituitary lobe manufactures a group of hormones that control growth, the action of the sex glands, thyroid activity, parathyroid activity, the islets of Langerhans in the pancreas where insulin is manufactured, the adrenal cortex, the secretion of milk, and the control of fat metabolism. This list reveals the great importance

of this tiny piece of tissue.

When this portion becomes affected in adult life, a condition known as acromegaly results. It develops slowly and is marked by enlargement of the face, hands, feet, legs, and arms. Usually the lower jaw becomes prominent, the features coarse, and the tongue thickened.

The posterior lobe secretes a hormone which elevates blood pressure, stimulates uterine contraction, depresses the action of the kidneys, stimulates milk production, and tends to lessen the formation of gastric juice, and prevent dilation of the pupil of the eye. The preparation from this portion of the gland is called pituitrin.

The Pineal Gland is a small organ lying at the base of the brain, but very little is known with certainty about its function. It is about the size of a wheat grain and well developed by the seventh year, after which it begins to shrink, gradually degenerating into small particles of phosphate and carbonate of lime, known as "grain sand." Descartes believed it to be the seat of the soul, while evolution has claimed that at one time it was a third eye, looking straight upward through a hole in the top of the skull!

We have been studying some of the smallest and, apparently, quite the most insignificant tissues in the body. In fact, only a few years ago our evolutionary

friends were speaking of them as "vestigial organs," remnants of an animal ancestry, useful when we occupied a rung lower than at present on the ladder of life, but now in our human stage, without any use. This gross mistake was made because the extent of their scientific knowledge was so greatly exaggerated. It was taken for granted that, if science had not discovered any useful function attached to these small organs, since science was infallible, and almost omniscient, they must be useless. It was thought, for some inscrutable reason, that our animal ancestors needed them, but having advanced to the human stage, were able to discard them. They could not quite expel them from the body, of course, but they were left to shrink into oblivion, reminding us all the while of our forebears!

This attitude of mind puts a premium on human ignorance, as we now know. These ductless glands are the most important structures in the body. Our lives depend on their mysterious, accurate, and complex operations. We know that they manufacture poisons of astonishing potency in just the right amount for the body requirements. Think for a moment of the tragedies that would be enacted if the adrenal gland, in its medullary portion, should suddenly discharge an un-

(See **BODY** on page 13)

REVIVAL . . .

(Continued from page 7)

2. To sustain us under life's burdens. —

"I am afflicted very much; quicken me, O Lord, according to thy word." Dust mars and hinders life, but it is not heavy. There are Christians not covered with dust, living consecrated lives, who have on them heavy burdens of responsibility, calamity, or sorrow. Such as those need quickening, that they may have strength to bear their burdens. David was afflicted very much, and this word "afflicted" has a wider range than bodily disease. But he does not pray for a lessening of the burden. What he wants is more life to carry what he has, and to assume larger burdens. Burden-bearing develops a strong, healthy man, while it crushes the weak and sickly. We need more life under these burdens, that they may develop us, rather than crush us.

Responsibility, disappointment, and sorrow make men despair; they give up the conflict sometimes on the very verge of victory, for the lack of life to bear up. A man in California had spent his little fortune seeking gold; every dollar was gone, and he was in debt. Disheartened, demented by his despair, he left his drill one day, went to his cabin, shot his wife and child, and then killed himself. His friends,

who pulled up his drill, found on its point the richest kind of ore. If he had held out but a day longer, he would have been rich; and thus we may be on the very verge of great success, and yet fail for the lack of the life that bears disappointment.

3. To break all bonds that enslave us. —

"Plead my cause. Deliver me. Quicken thou me according to thy word." This reveals to us a condition of bondage. "Deliver me; set me free;" and this freedom comes through a revival — a quickening according to God's word. Some of us are bound by habit; the habit of doing evil or the habit of doing nothing good. It is difficult to tell which is worse — the habit of doing what is wrong, or the habit of neglecting what is right. Oh for the quickening that will deliver us from these do-nothing bonds!

Others are bound by the fear of men. When the apostles were filled with the Spirit, they spoke the word of God with boldness; they feared neither the face nor the sword of their enemies. Many are bound by self-interest. They are afraid to offend those out of whom they make profit. They will not be out-and-out Christians, lest some who read not the Bible and care nothing for religion will not be pleased. The social circle in which they move is not an atmosphere of religion. The opinions of their friends do not en-

courage active work for Christ.

We need a quickening, that will give us strength, like Samson, to break the cords which these Philistines of the world have put upon us.

How To Get Such A Revival

Pray for it. Every text

(See **REVIVAL** on page 14)

BODY . . .

(Continued from page 12)

usually large amount of adrenin into the blood stream. Death would be speedy. We need an infinitesimal amount in an infinitely large dilution, and that is what every one receives.

Is it not a fair question to ask how these suprarenal glands know just the right amount to secrete and are restrained somehow from making disastrous mistakes? To say that it is a Law of Nature is to beg the question. The tissue itself is without a mind or reasoning power. There must be a Master Mind behind all this somewhere. And since I am bringing to you scores of similar miracles from every phase of our investigation, what *must* be the result? The answer is that when the Bible says: "*in the beginning God created,*" that is not simply the ignorant belief of an ancient Hebrew writer, but is the

voice of God.

You have noticed how the views of scientists change from age to age. As additional facts are uncovered, beliefs which were thought to be quite settled have been abandoned and displaced by new concepts, and no one can be sure of anything. I must modify that statement and say there is but *one* thing in which we may place implicit confidence, and that glorious possession of the human race is the Bible. Never does it contradict anything which is proved to be science. While it was not written as a scientific textbook, it does refer to scientific matters many times, and its words, while simple and understandable, speak truth. If the current Science happens to differ, then evolution reminds us that our Book is out of date and must be relegated to the scrap heap of oblivion. God's Word never engages in argument. It pronounces infallible truth, and men and women can take it or leave it.

What are you doing with God's Word when it says there is only one way to get to heaven, and that way is through the Lord Jesus Christ? Are you trying some other way? If you persist, you will suffer an eternity of judgment. Why not try Jesus Christ today? HE'S WONDERFUL! [Next month: "The Pancreas, Insulin and Diabetes.] □ □

REVIVAL . . .

(Continued from page 13)

is a prayer: "Quicken thou me according to thy word." It is a personal prayer. It is well to pray for the pastor, for the church, for all Christendom, for the world. It is better to begin by praying for one's self. "Quicken *me*." If you are quickened, somebody else will be; and if the fire begins in your soul, the flames will catch the combustible material about you. You need to strike the match that can burn up a city.

The fact is, all quickening must be individual. The Lord does not quicken the crowd. The tongue of flame at Pentecost sat not upon the crowd but "upon each of them." A revival that comes in answer to prayer is God-given, and the only kind worth having. A revival gotten up is soon put down. A revival produced by a series of mechanics, whether of song or invitation or eccentricity, will not last. It can be destroyed by an opposite course of mechanics. It is simply a battle of force with force, with which God has nothing to do.

The revival which we call the Reformation was born in prayer. Luther's habit was to pray three hours a day. The knees of Melancthon were found after his death to have been made callous by kneeling. Pentecost was preceded by

ten days of supplication and prayer. Peter and John were in the spirit of prayer on their way into the Temple, when the other great revival in which many were converted was commenced. After Christ had cast out the devil from the demoniac, he said: "Such as this cometh only by prayer." Oh for Elijahs who can break up the spiritual drought by praying rain out of the skies! Jonathan Edwards' sermon on the "Sinner in the Hands of an Angry God" he preached many times, but only on one occasion was it signally blessed. He read from a manuscript, holding it up awkwardly to the light; and yet, while he read, the people took hold of the pews, fearing that they were sliding into hell. What was the secret? A little company of his members had met the Saturday evening before, remained together without supper, continued in prayer all night, forgot their breakfast next morning, as they pleaded with God for His hand of power upon their pastor.

John Wesley carried an old man around with him to pray for him, the secret of his vast power was doubtless the intercession of this godly man. "Father" Chiniquy was converted on a Saturday evening, and he spent the whole night in prayer and praise. No wonder when he stood up before his large congregation the next day, and preached on Jesus Christ

the gift of God, a thousand souls were converted.

What we need now for quickening is not so much money and wisdom as the spirit of supplication. Pray for yourself until the new life is infused; and when that new life comes, it will lead you to pray for others. Like the servant-girl in a New England town who prayed all night for the salvation of her mistress. That mistress, unable to sleep, convicted of her sin, not knowing the cause, urged her husband to go out and get some preacher to pray for her; then, reflecting that the servant-girl was a Christian they went to her room, and before opening the door they heard these words: "O Lord, bless mistress. Have mercy on her, for she is good to me." Opening the door gently, husband and wife knelt down by the side of that servant-girl, and asked her to pray for them.

We need not riches, nor honor, nor position to have the ear of the King. The weakest may be made powerful by the quickening of the Spirit. If you cannot pray, then try David's petition: "Quicken thou me, and I will call upon thy name." Pray for the grace to pray; pray for the spirit of prayer; and the God of all mercy and grace will show forth His power. □ □

WNR . . .

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about 80 miles northeast of

Lahore, said police official Ali Asghar Dogar. The attackers were being investigated. About two dozen people had been arrested, Dogar said. The fires came a day after a local Muslim resident accused a Christian of burning a one-room Islamic school along with copies of the Koran. Dogar said the allegations were apparently leveled by people who lost money while gambling with the Christian man Friday, but police had detained him and were investigating.

* * *

Q: With such a big push to keep religion out of government schools, why is AIG saying it's already there?

A: Efforts to "keep religion out of public schools" are very deceptive. For example, in America, humanists have been fighting any school board that wants students to learn the pros and cons of evolution. Even if the boards don't mention creation, humanists accuse them of trying to sneak religion into the schools! But religion never *left* the schools. When the courts threw prayer and Bible reading out of America's schools, they replaced a Bible-based worldview with an atheistic one. Now public schools teach science, history and other subjects without *any* reference to the super-

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WNR . . .

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natural. Many don't realize that this is a *religious* view—an anti-Christian view—and it's a basic belief of the religion of secular humanism. The battle over education is just a *symptom* of a bigger change in our society — a shift from God's authority to man-centered religion. The only way to win, in the long run, is for society — and particularly the church — to return to biblical authority. This is where the fight will ultimately be won or lost. Once society has the right foundation, then Christians can hope to challenge problems ... like evolution in schools.

* * *

ACLU: Opposes Tax-breaks for Bible Sales. — A retired Atlanta, GA librarian and a Sandy Springs bookshop owner are challenging a state law that grants a sales tax exemption for purchases of the Bible and other books pertaining to "Holy Scripture." Their lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court in Atlanta, said if such works are exempt from sales and use taxes, other philosophical, religious and spiritual works should be as well. "The law is written in such a way that minority religions don't get the same tax exemption as better-known religions such as Christianity and Ju-

daism," said Maggie Garrett, a lawyer with the American Civil Liberties Union of Georgia, which represents the two plaintiffs. State law exempts from sales tax all "Holy Bibles, testaments and similar books commonly recognized as being Holy Scripture." The decades-old law also exempts "any religious paper ... when the paper is owned and operated by religious institutions and denominations," but it does not define religious paper. State Revenue Commissioner Bart Graham, the defendant in the lawsuit ... said his office, responding to a previous inquiry, had suspended the sales tax for the Quran, the holy book of Islam. But the office has not had inquiries about other religious books, he said.

* * *

Palestinian Christians Are Persecuted, Author Says. — Palestinian Christians are suffering from human rights abuses including land confiscations, rape and murder at the hands of the much larger Muslim community, but when they speak up, the Palestinian Authority offers them no recourse or protection, a human rights lawyer and author said. In the West Bank and Gaza Strip, both Palestinian Muslims and Christians tell visitors that there is no friction between them — that they live as

equals under the P.A. But Justus Reid Weiner, author of the recently released book "Human Rights of Christians in Palestinian Society" said that is simply not true. Religious persecution is a widespread problem that is felt in different ways, Weiner said. "Some people are accused of collaboration with Israel. Some people are accused of moral offenses. Some people are accused of trying to spread Christianity by giving out Bibles."

* * *

Atheist Sues to Remove 'In God We Trust' From Currency. — The atheist who is fighting to take the phrase "under God" out of the Pledge of Allegiance filed

a lawsuit late Thursday seeking to prevent the U.S. government from printing the national motto — "In God We Trust" — on any future coins or paper money. In the suit filed with the U.S. District Court in Sacramento, Calif., Michael Newdow claims that the present use of the phrase "violates the Establishment and Free Exercise Clauses of the United States Constitution," and he seeks to stop the government from using it on mint coins and print currency, as well as in "any act or law." The defendants named in the 35-page document include the members of Congress, Treasury Secretary John Snow, U.S. Mint Director Henrietta Fore and Thomas Ferguson, director of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. □

Many Parents Are Finding Out That a Pat On the Back Helps Develop Character — If Given Often Enough, Early Enough, and Low Enough!

**“Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest: yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul”
Proverbs 29:17**

Fundamental Baptist Information Service

By David W. Cloud

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Highland Park Baptist Church Rocking On Wednesday Nights.

— The October 29 issue of the Chattanooga Times Free Press (Chattanooga, Tennessee) featured a picture of Tennessee Temple University students worshipping to contemporary rock music during a Wednesday evening service. The accompanying article said: “Beneath the 90-year-old stained glass at St. Andrews Center, rock music blares as worshippers in jeans and T-shirts fill the sanctuary. The weekly Wednesday night church service has all the markings of traditional worship — music, preaching and praying. But the choir and organ have been replaced with drums and an electric guitar. ‘Each generation has different styles of music, and what churches have to realize is that we’ve got to meet those younger generations’ needs,’ said Dr. Danny Lovett, who preaches at the service and is president of Tennessee Temple University.”

Methodist Bishops

Come Out In Support of Homosexual Church Membership.

— The bishops of the United Methodist Church have issued a statement declaring that homosexuality is no barrier to church membership. The Council of Bishops said that “while pastors have the responsibility to discern readiness for membership, homosexuality is not a barrier” (“United Methodist Bishops Affirm Church Membership Open to All,” United Methodist Church News Service, Nov. 3). The bishops’ sorry and heretical decision was unanimous, thus exposing the deep apostasy of this denomination.

The Queen of the Damned Fictionalizes Christ.

— The following is from our friend Brian Snider of Huntsville, Alabama: “A new book by Anne Rice incorporates fictional scenes from the life of Christ, blaspheming the son of God and flirting with the curse of Revelation by adding to the word of God with her fables about the Son of God. Her new book is based on Biblical

accounts of the Lord’s life, but fictionalizes much of the rest with imaginative accounts of events that never happened, and are incongruous with the life of Christ. In the opening pages, a 7-year-old Jesus kills a neighborhood bully with his powers, and then resurrects him from the dead. This sets the stage for the way that Rice continually fills in the blanks of the Lord’s life in her novel by creating scenes out of whole cloth. Rice is one of the most popular writers in America today, dishing up demonic, soft-porn books filled with vampires and Satanic imagery. Yet these books are popular with readers across the spectrum, including many Christians.

Majority Of Americans Reject Evolution and Believe In Hell.

— According to a new CBS/Associated Press poll, 51% of Americans believe that God created humans in their present form. About 45% said they believe in evolution, with 31% of those claiming to believe that God guided the evolutionary process. The survey was conducted in early October and consisted of interviews with 808 adults. A Fox News poll published a week later found that 91% of Americans believe in God, 87% believe in heaven, 79% believe in angels, 74% believe in hell, and 67% believe in the devil (Foxnews.com, Oct. 28). It

would be interesting to see what percentage believe that one can go to heaven only by being born again through personal faith in Jesus Christ.

Dungeons & Dragons Game Day 2005.

— The Dungeons & Dragons Game Day 2005 was held on November 5 and drew participants in many countries. It was the 31st anniversary of the fantasy-sorcery warfare game, which was a predecessor to the even more demonic games that are popular today in electronic format. Scott Presley, a game player at The Fantasy Factory in Lakeland, Florida, said, “A lot of online gaming out there now owes a great deal of debt to the Dungeons & Dragons gaming system” (The Lakeland Ledger, Nov. 5, p. D1). The game is about casting spells, ghouls, goblins, pentagrams, and other things associated what the Bible describes as the demonic realm. Though promoted as innocent fun, it is anything but that. Graham Braddock of New Zealand warned: “Even in its most basic forms players are introduced to magic, the casting of spells, the use of magic circles, pentagrams and thaumaturgic triangles as protective psychic devices. Players

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battle or seek the aid of demons and pagan deities. Players are encouraged to align them-selves with a deity or deities and even to worship them” (Maranatha Mes-sage #80, 1984). “And *God* saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” (Gen. 6:5). “This evil people, which refuse to hear my words, which walk in the imagination of their heart, and walk after other gods, to serve them, and to worship them, shall even be as this girdle, which is good for nothing” (Jer. 23:10).

* * *

Episcopal, Churches Leaving the Fold. — Many congregations are leaving the Episcopal Church USA because of its support for the ordination and marriage of homosexuals. The Calvary Anglican Church held its first service in Jacksonville, Florida, on November 6 after splitting from the Episcopal denomination at the national and state level. Two other churches in Jacksonville, plus churches in Orange Park, Gainesville, and Tallahassee are following suit in January 2006 (“Calvary Anglican Prays in New Spot,” The Times-Union, Nov. 7). Some Episcopal congregations in

other states had already jumped ship.

* * *

Pastor Electrocuted After Praying “Surprise Me, God. — Pastor Kyle Lake was electrocuted on Sunday, October 30, minutes after the congregation had prayed, “Surprise me, God.” The pastor of the liberal University Baptist Church in Waco, Texas, had preached a strange New Agey-like sermon about living life to the fullest, in which he said: “Live. And Live Well. *Breathe.* Breathe in and Breathe deeply. Be *present.* Do not be past. Do not be future. Be now. ... Get knee-deep in a novel and *lose* track of time. If you bike, pedal *hard*” and if you crash then crash well. ... If you’ve recently experienced loss, then *grieve.* And grieve well. At the table with friends and family, *laugh.* If you’re eating and laughing at the same time, then you might as well laugh until you puke.” This Baptist church gets its name from nearby Baylor University, which is a liberal institution supported by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Professor Roger Olson of Baylor’s Truett Seminary has espoused the heresy of Open Theism, which claims that God does not perfectly know the future and makes mistakes. In March 2004 Baylor’s school paper came out in

support of homosexual marriage and said it is wrong to “discriminate” against someone because of “sexual orientation.”

* * *

Christian Girls Shot/ Beheaded In Indonesia.

— Two teenage Christian girls were shot in the head in Indonesia on November 8 and are in comas and three others were beheaded on October 29. The attacks occurred in Poso, which is about 900 miles northeast of the capital Jakarta. BosNewsLife reports that there have been 40 other attacks against professing Christians, including shootings, killings, and bombings. Fighting between Muslims and Christians took the lives of about 2,000 people in this region of Indonesia between 1998 and 2001. Hundreds of churches have been forced to close.

* * *

Pastor Still Facing Trial For Speaking Out Against Homosexuality.

— Stephen Boissoin, a youth pastor in Alberta, Canada, is still facing a trial before the Human Rights Commission for speaking out against the dangers of homosexuality. As we reported in September, the controversy began when Boissoin wrote a letter to his local newspaper, the Red Deer Advocate, denouncing homosexuality

as immoral and dangerous. In the letter, published in the June 17, 2002 edition of the paper, Boissoin rightly lamented that “children as young as five and six years of age are being subjected to psychologically and physiologically damaging pro-homosexual literature and guidance in the public school system; all under the fraudulent guise of equal rights.” A complaint was subsequently filed by Darren Lund, an assistant professor at the University of Calgary. Boissoin will appear before the Commission at an as yet unnamed date, and if found guilty will be fined \$7,000 (\$5,000 of which is supposed to go Darren Lund and \$2,000 to the pro-homosexual rights group EGALE Canada). Boissoin, who has two young children, said that he will not pay a fine to EGALE nor will he apologize for what he wrote, even if he has to go to prison. Good for him, but shame on Alberta’s so-called Human Rights Commission for persecuting this pastor just because some don’t like what he preaches.

* * *

Homosexual Organization At Baptist University.

— An organization called the Mercer Triangle Symposium is promoting the homosexual agenda at

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Mercer University in Georgia. Billing itself as the GLBT [gay lesbian bisexual transgender] Rights Student Organization, it sponsored a National Coming Out Day on October 11 and publicized the event in the campus newspaper ("Homosexual Group at Mercer Prompts Concern in Ga. Baptist Convention," Baptist Press, Nov. 9). It also published the names of 29 faculty and staff that support the organization's goals, including professor of Christianity Margaret Dee Bratcher and assistant professor of Christianity Janell Johnson. The organization meets on campus twice a month. Mercer University is the largest and most prominent Baptist educational institution in Georgia. It receives roughly \$3 million a year from the Georgia Baptist Convention, which is affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

* * *

Television Programs Twice As Sensual As Seven Years Ago. — Television programs in the United States contain double the number of sex scenes compared to seven years ago. This was the finding of a Kaiser Family Foundation survey of programs aired on ABC, CBS, NBC, Fox, WB, PBS Lifetime, TNT, USA, and

HBO. "The study found that 70 per cent of all shows included some sexual content, averaging about five scenes with sexual content per hour. That's up from about three scenes per hour in 1998, and from nearly four" ("Most Sexed-up Shows on Idiot Box," AP, Hindustan Times, Nov. 10). "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me" (Psalm 101:3).

* * *

Catholic Cardinals Affirm Evolution and Warn Against Fundamentalism. — During a news conference on a Vatican project to reconcile science and religion, Catholic Cardinal Gianfranco Basti affirmed Pope John Paul II's 1996 statement that evolution is "more than just a hypothesis." He said, "A hypothesis asks whether something is true or false. [Evolution] is more than a hypothesis because there is proof" ("Vatican: Faithful Should Listen to Science," AP, Nov. 3). Basti is the director of the Vatican's Science, Theology and Ontological Quest (STOQ). Cardinal Paul Poupard concurred and warned against a fundamentalist approach to Scripture. Not only has the Roman Catholic Church today not renounced its ancient heresies such as papal

supremacy, priestcraft, sacramentalism, and sainthood, it has added to those many contemporary heresies such as evolution and modernistic documentary theories of Scripture.

* * *

Georgia Baptist Convention Ends Relationship With Mercer University. — The Georgia Baptist Convention (GBC) voted last week to end its 175-year-old relationship with Mercer University. This was in response to the school's activities in relation to homosexuality. It was discovered in October that a Gay-Lesbian-Bisexual-Transgender organization exists at Mercer and is supported by students and teachers, including some in the theological department. Heretofore the school has received financial grants from the GBC to the tune of \$3 million per year. Mercer University has been a hotbed of theological poison for at least 50 years. Kirby Godsey, president of Mercer for 26 years, is a modernist who denies practically every doctrine of the Christian faith. In the book *When We Talk about God ... Let's Be Honest* (Smyth & Helwys, 1996) Godsey denies that the Bible is infallible and claims that "the notion that God is the all powerful, the high and mighty principal of heaven and earth should be laid aside." And Godsey is only one example of the

rank modernism at Mercer. Thus, after at least a half century of putting up with the vilest apostasy, the Georgia Baptist Convention has finally voted to disassociate from Mercer, and that not primarily because of the liberalism but because of homosexuality. It should be understood that the Georgia Baptist Convention (as most her SBC state conventions) remains an unscriptural mixture of conservatism and liberalism. In spite of the conservative renaissance in the Southern Baptist Convention and the many commendable steps that have been taken to distance the convention from modernism, it remains a deeply compromised New Evangelical hodgepodge of truth and error. Though there are godly Southern Baptists and some good and Scriptural things in many Southern Baptist congregations, this good is leavened with Billy Graham ecumenism, Jimmy Carter-style modernism (Carter still teaches Sunday School in a Southern Baptist-associated congregation even though he has distanced himself from the SBC in public statements), rock & roll worldliness, contemporary worship charismaticism, Rick Warren pragmaticism, and Masonic Lodge paganism.

* * *

Harry Potter Con-(See **FBIS** on page 19)

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tinues To Expand Its Influence. — The Harry Potter empire continues to expand its influence with the debut of the fourth Potter movie last weekend. The PG-13 rated “Goblet of Fire” enjoyed the fourth-largest movie opening ever at \$101.4 million (“‘Goblet of Fire’ Keeps Wizard Tales Hot,” USA Today, Nov. 21, D1). The Potter movies have grossed \$930 million in the US alone and \$3 billion worldwide. The Potter books have sold at least 300 million copies worldwide. The hero of the story is a young wizard who uses alleged good magic to make his way in the world and to overcome his enemies. Biblically speaking, there is no such thing as good magic or a good wizard, witch, or sorcerer. These are condemned in the strongest terms. “There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee” (Deut. 18:9-12). God warns His people in the clearest terms, “have no fellowship

with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them” (Eph. 5:11), and, “Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils” (1 Cor. 10:21).

* * *

Continuing Persecution Of Christians By Muslims In Indonesia, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia. — On November 19, a man and wife returning home from church were shot and wounded in the Indonesian province of Central Sulawesi. They were riding their motorcycle when attacked. A day earlier, three teenage Christian girls were shot, killing one of them. That same day a 22-year-old girl was wounded when she was struck in the neck by a machete. On November 12, about 450 Christians fled for their lives after an organized mob of 2,000 Muslims burned churches and homes in Pakistan. The mob, stirred up by Muslim clerics who falsely charged that a Christian had burned the Quran, was brought to the area in buses. “In fiery speeches, the leaders provoked the mob to set to fire each and every Christian place of worship.” They burned down a Presbyterian church, a Catholic church, and a Salvation Army church. Two pastors were shot by Muslim extremists in an earlier episode. In Saudi Arabia a court sentenced a teacher to 40 months in

How To Witness To Jehovah’s Witnesses

When a Jehovah’s Witness comes to your door, he comes with a purpose. His purpose? Let the Watchtower Society answer that for us through their official Journal *The Watchtower*: “Your life depends on finding out who today are truly God’s servants that speak his Word and becoming one of them” (*The Watchtower*, February 1, 1967, p. 72).

His is a disciple-making goal! He has been told that to live forever he must now go door-to-door and look for others with whom he may start Bible studies.”¹ In the course of the studies, subtle pressure will be exerted upon the student, requiring him to accept the Watchtower teachings as coming from God “through his visible organization.” To accept this point of view is to give himself over to be directed by the “Society” or headquarters of Jehovah’s Witnesses. Be forewarned: he comes prepared and

prison and 750 lashes in a public flogging for discussing the Bible and praising Jews. “He was charged with promoting a ‘dubious ideology, mocking religion, saying the Jews were right, discussing the Gospel and preventing students from leaving class to wash for prayer’” (*The Washington Times*, Nov. 14).

equipped to do battle using all the reasons and logic he can possibly muster to support their doctrine.

How then can we get to witness to him about our Savior and tell him that one does not have to go door-to-door to “gain eternal life?” We present the following systematic discussion which has been tried and proven successful.

But let’s first get our objectives fixed in mind. Our goal is not to win arguments! To win arguments requires much study and knowledge of the Bible and even Biblical languages. Certainly most people are not so prepared. But we all desire to witness, and witness we can. We will remember that it is “God that giveth the increase.”

Our appeal is not necessarily in the intellect but to the heart. We are looking for the ones who are suffering in a bondage of false religion and who are open to the call of the Master’s voice. Therefore, let your love and joy visibly overflow to them as you speak to them of Jesus.

Now that we have defined the objectives of our prospect, you will want to lead this fast-talking person to the subject we have in mind. So, you will want to qualify him, that is,

(See **JW’s** on page 20)

JW's . . .

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find out if he is amenable to investigate his beliefs and "hear" more about the Savior. The best way to discover this is to ask him some questions. This method is scriptural as the Bible tells us that there will "arise false Christs and false prophets" and we are told to "try (test) the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (Mt. 24:24); 1 Jn. 4:1). Be sure to ask the following questions in the exact manner and order that we present them for the best results.

Are You A Child Of God?

As soon as your "friend" identifies himself as one who has come to your door to talk to you about the Bible, say to him or to her, "Excuse me. I would like to ask you a personal question. *"Are you a child of God?"* If he replies yes, ask him, "How did you become one?" Now wait for his testimony about what Christ has done for him. Listen carefully. Should he reply no, ask him, "Then whose child are you?"

The scriptural basis for our first question is this: "I send thee to open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins,

and inheritance among them who are sanctified by faith that is in me" (Acts 26:17-18). You will see that the verses show that there are only two places or positions for a person to be in: either one is in the "darkness" or he is in the "light." Either he has been sanctified by faith in Christ and received forgiveness of his sins or he has not. He is either under the power of Satan or he is under God. Paul tells Christians that before they were "saved" they were "sons of disobedience" and by "nature the children of wrath" (Eph. 2:1-4).

Are You Born Again?

Now, if he says that he is a "child of God" and that he believes in Jesus as the Savior, ask the second question: *"Are you born again?"* (Scripture basis, John 3:3-6; 1 John 5:1). If he should say no, ask him, "Why not?" He will then proceed to tell you that only 144,000 are born again and going to heaven, and since he intends to live forever on the earth he doesn't have to be "born again." As an answer to this, ask, "Can you show me one verse in the Bible that says only 144,000 will be born again?" Do not accept a string of Scripture references. *There is no such verse.* Here they have been deceived and have not believed what the Bible has to say about Christ and salvation! Now ask, "Do

you believe the Bible or only what your organization tells you?"

Do You Have Eternal Life?

The third question to ask is, *"Do you have eternal life?"* (Basis, 1 John 5:1, 11-13 and their own teaching.) The book, **Life Everlasting in Freedom of the Sons of God**, says on page 400:

"Jehovah God will justify, declare righteous, on the basis of their own merit all perfected humans who have withstood that final, decisive test of mankind. He will *adopt and acknowledge them as his sons through Jesus Christ*" (Emphasis ours).

They teach that this occurs at the end of the millennial reign of Jesus Christ. So, at present, the two million JW's are not God's sons and daughters and they haven't yet received eternal life because they have not been through the final test which is yet in the future.

Our questions have led us to the key issues. How can one believe in Jesus

Christ as Savior and not have eternal life (Jn. 6:47)? Review 1 John 5:1 with this JW. Does he believe in Jesus as the Christ? Then according to the verse he should have been born again. If he had been adopted by God as His child, he would have eternal life. So then, when he says that he "believes" in Jesus Christ, his idea or belief is defective and we can understand why God has not received him as His son.

We hope that this will furnish you an effective method to witness to Jehovah's Witnesses. Let's get them off their "track" and into areas of salvation through faith in Jesus. Be sure that after you have heard his answers to question number 3, you present your testimony about what your faith in Jesus as the Christ has done for you. When he leaves you, tell him you will not forget him in your prayers.

¹More accurately, studies in Watchtower materials designed to break down faith in Christian belief and replace it with Watchtower doctrines.

A Happy Marriage Is the Union of Two Good Forgivers!

And be ye kind one to another,
tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as
God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.
Ephesians 4:32

SICK . . .

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Jacob, I have suffered ever since from a physical handicap as a result, yet the most fruitful years of my ministry have been those since I was “touched in the hollow of the thigh.”

May I mention, then, seven “Gloryings” that come to us through sickness, and that also abound to the glory of God.

The Glory of Chastening

First of all, there is a distinct glory just in being chastened. “*Whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth*” (Heb. 12:6). And if we are not chastened then we are “*bastards, and not sons*” (Heb. 12:8). Neither is any chastening for the present joyous — whether from the hand of our earthly father or from the hand of our Heavenly Father.

We do well therefore to remember that chastening need not be punishment. Chastening is to refine and make better, punishment is to condemn and restrain. Moreover, sickness is not necessarily a result of our wrong doing. Concerning the blind man, it was our Lord Himself who said, “*Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents; but that the works of God should be made manifest in him*” (Jn. 9:3). The Psalmist learned this and said, “*It is good for me that I have been*

afflicted, that I might learn thy statutes” (Psa. 119:71).

The Glory of Abandonment

Then there is the glory of abandonment — we have to “let go” in order to “let God.” With every underpinning taken away there is naught else that we can do. Yes, and that is what perfect trust is — just relaxing as a helpless babe upon Another and leaving it all to Him. No one likes to be sick, no one chooses it. And here is born in one’s heart that flower of humility — hidden, sweet and fragrant like the arbutus, trailing along the ground until it bursts forth from out of the snows of winter into the warmth of His love — humility which can never be imitated, but is born of God. And whoever truly walks this path never poses as a martyr nor covers himself with self-pity.

The Glory of Meditation

Then in sickness we enter into the chamber of the glory of meditation. At last there is time to think whether we will or not! Here is where so many find God. It is a good thing to be brought to the very gates of death. We all have to pass through them some day. Now if by being brought to these gates we can be made ready to pass through and find the victory that is in Him, then all the

rest of our days we are going to live more than conquerors!

The Glory of Strength

Here, too, strange to say, one finds the glory of strength; for, as Paul says, “*When I am weak, then am I strong*” (2 Cor. 12:10). Strange paradox! The secret is, of course, that we can do more in God’s strength than we can in our own. Abandoned to Him, we let Him do. Paul could say, I “*glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me ... for when I am weak, then am I strong*” (2 Cor. 12:9-10). It may be that we need what he needed.

The Glory of Discipline

This lost self-power, in order that we might put on God-power, brings strength because it brings us into the glory of discipline. Someone has said, “You never live to grow old until you have been turned down by an insurance company,” because then you go into training and discipline yourself, and you do only those things that make and keep you fit. We need discipline and more of it. Self-indulgence never made true manhood or womanhood. To go on a diet for the rest of one’s days brings much more ultimate satisfaction out of life than to live as an epicurean. Editors and athletes have to keep on a diet to play their

game, and they enjoy it. Why should not we “keep the body under” who seek the full abundance of life?

The Glory of Fellowship

But we must not omit the fragrance of the glory of fellowship that comes with all sickness and suffering. To have to be cared for with the intimate tenderness demanded by a weakened body knits a cord between those who do the waiting and those who are waited upon that cannot be broken. Nursing cannot be done by a machine. There comes a glory from sickness that likewise blesses the well — also disciplining and chastening them. “*I was sick, and ye visited me*” (Mt. 25:36), says our Master. And there in the sickroom the Friend of friends is found again and again, making new friends. Of course, all sickness is not just sickness in a comfortable home with loving hands to wait on you. Sickness often means a large financial outlay, where there are no means from which to make this outlay. Often it is the bread-winner who is stricken, which means that in all these things there is only a deeper pruning being done, and the deeper pruning means “more fruit.” In this we have to trust Him with our financial end as well as our bodily end.

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MOSER . . .

(Continued from page 1)

found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also" (Mt. 2:7-8). Oh the subtlety, the deceitfulness of the human heart. Herod did not want to worship Christ, but to put Him to death.

The very announcement of the birth of Christ caused rulers to tremble, all Jerusalem to be troubled, for when Jesus comes He interferes with the nefarious practices of rulers, the sinful life of men, the rulership of religious bosses. These did not want Jesus, and only the hand of God and the necessity of the fulfillment of His eternal purpose preserved Him from their wicked hands.

During His public ministry He was unwanted, and the world's attitude toward Him was antagonistic. We read "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man hath not where to lay his head" (Mt. 8:20). Think of it, the wickedness of the human heart, He who created the world could find no place to lay His head. He was the unwanted One, and thus men said we do not want God with us.

Then we come to the closing days of His earthly ministry, and we see Jesus and the twelve gathered for the last supper. One among that number is the betrayer, and he is expressing the world's attitude toward

Jesus. This one for all these years had companioned with Jesus, had witnessed the marvelous works of His hands, and had seen Him deal so tenderly with the lost, the afflicted and the suffering, yet he is to sell Him for thirty pieces of silver. What a small price to place on the head of the Creator of the universe, the One who is the Redeemer, the God Man. Yet the world has ever held the value of Jesus lightly. But thank God we read "Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end" (Jn. 13:1). Yes Jesus loves unto the end regardless of the world's attitude.

Then it is evening, and we see a lone figure bowed under a gnarled olive tree in Gethsemane, and we heard Him as He pours out His heart to the Father while the world cares not that the Son of Man is preparing to die. Even those who went with Him to the garden are fast asleep, while the Son of God is in such anguish of soul that He sweated as it were great drops of blood.

Suddenly we hear the clashing of swords and of spears, the noise of the mob, and we look and see one in the lead who comes and plants the traitor's kiss on the cheek of the Son of God. The blackest, most

diabolical Satanic piece of treachery the world has ever known. Hear the voice of Jesus as He speaks "I am he, if therefore ye seek me, let these go their way." Oh the love in those words, "Let these go their way." Only one can die for the sins of the world; there is only one upon whom is to be poured all the hatred of a godless world, "I am he, let these go their way."

Then hear him say to Peter "Put up thy sword into the sheath, the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?" In that cup was all the anguish of the human life, all the sin, despair, grief and tears; He was willing and ready to drink it all to its last bitter dregs for you and for me.

Next we see a great multitude leading out from the city going toward a hill outside the city gates known as "Golgotha, the place of the skull." Leading this procession is one bearing a cross on His shoulder, a cross prepared for another, one by the name of Barrabas, a murderer, a seditionist, a guilty one, but to soon be occupied by the sinless one as our substitute. We see Him stumble and fall, and under the abuse of His captors He arises and trudges a pace farther, until He goes down under the load and weakness of His physical body. So intent are these upon killing the Christ, so anxious are they, that they call another to carry His cross that they might rush

to the culmination of their hellish desires.

At last they come to Calvary and louder and louder grows the cry of the multitude, until the ancient hills catch the cry and send it back and forth, "Crucify Him. If thou be the Christ, save thyself." See them as they strip Him of His robe, and place upon Him in mockery the scarlet robe of royalty, little knowing that here stands the King of Kings before whom all the earth's kings must some day bow.

At last they have Him outstretched on the cross and we hear the nails as they tear through flesh. They drop the cross with its victim into the hole prepared for it and as the weight of the body bears down on the nails, flesh tears and rips; pain flashes across the face of the sinless, perfect Son of God while the multitude laughs with glee. See them as they kneel at the foot of the cross; not for salvation, but to gamble for His garments, and see the multitude sitting down watching Him there. This was and is the world's attitude toward Jesus.

That old cross tells out a wonderful story, the glad news God would proclaim. It tells out the story of the awfulness of human sin; Oh how we need to understand the awfulness of sin and what it did to Jesus when he hung betwixt heaven and earth on Calvary's

(See **MOSER** on page 23)

MOSER . . .

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cross. We cannot understand the awfulness of human sin until we stand and gaze at Calvary's cross. When we look at the cross we know that sin is real; that it is not a quirk of personality, nor a poor behaviouristic pattern as the psychologists would have us believe, but a real disease of the human heart that only the blood of Christ by the mercy and grace of God can heal. What an incomparable scene, as the accumulated guilt and sin of the ages past, present and future was concentrated upon the Son of God. Truly all the waves and the billows passed over His head, the storm of God's wrath broke upon Him, yea the very breath of Hell blew upon Him, until He cried out "My God, My God why hast thou forsaken me?" Heaven was silent to that question, for He was dying in the sinner's place, He was bearing your sins and my sins, and that is why God had forsaken Him, and God will have to forsake every soul that goes out into eternity in their sins without Christ. Oh we shudder when we think of facing the wrath of God, facing eternity without Christ and without hope.

Then the cross of Christ reveals the love, mercy and grace of God. "For God so loved the world that he gave," gave His Son, His only begotten

Son. Think of it, the matchless love of God giving His Son for rebels, for sinners. Go where you will; search where you may, but you will never find the love of God fully expressed except at the cross of Calvary. Nature cannot express God's matchless love, for nature is harsh and unkind; providence cannot fully express God's love; answered prayer cannot fully express God's love; only the cross, the place of shame can fully express the matchless love, mercy and grace of God. "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8). While we were yet sinners He died for us. Human thought and reason cannot fathom that statement, only the cross of Christ can reveal it.

Then the cross of Christ expresses God's only means of salvation. "Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). Talk about your baptismal regeneration, your salvation by works, by moral living, the answer comes back, there is only one way and that is by way of the cross. It must be by grace for we were sinners without merit. It must be of God for it was God we sinned against, and He alone has the power to save. Thus we sing, "Nothing in my hands I

bring, simply to thy cross I cling."

And one who has knelt at the foot of that cross, and gazed upon the suffering Son of God has come to the realization that it was for me. Thus we cry:

I saw One hanging on a tree,
In agony and blood;
He fixed His languid eyes on me,
As near His cross I stood.

Surely never till my latest breath,
Can I forget that look;
It seemed to charge me with His death;
Tho' not a word He spoke.

My conscience felt and owned the guilt,
And plunged me in despair;
I saw my sins, His blood had spilt,
And helped to nail Him there.

Alas I knew not what I did,
But now my tears are vain;
Where shall my trembling soul be hid,
For I the Lord have slain.

A second look He gave which said,
"I freely all forgive;
This blood is for thy ransom, paid,
I die that thou mayest live."

Oh can it be, upon a tree,

The Savior died for me?
My soul is thrilled,
My heart is filled,
To think He died for me.

Yes, it is almost unbelievable that Jesus died for me, but He did, and that for all who are lost.

But the question now comes, "What is your attitude toward Jesus?"

To the unsaved your attitude is known, you have said with the world, "I want none of Him." There is no place for Him in your life. Still He calls, still He pleads, and today if you hear His voice harden not your hearts, but with all your guilt, sin and shame come to Him; come under the shadow of Calvary, come under the blood and be saved.

To the saved "What is your attitude toward Jesus?" We are not asking what your mouth says, but what do your actions proclaim? Perhaps even now I am speaking to someone, someone who one day looked longingly at Calvary's cross, your heart broke, you cried out in despair and Jesus saved your soul, but even now you are planning to stay at home today and not go yourself to the House of God for worship and service, saying that the weather is too severe or friends are visiting, or some other reason. I urge you, I challenge you to look once

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BARNES . . .

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Lord Jesus! They are full of passion, and lust, and anger, and contention, and strife; they come to mingle in battles, and to take part with contending armies, and they evince the same spirit as men, and are merely men of great power, and more gigantic passions; but Christ *is God in human nature*. The form is that of man; the Spirit is that of God.

He walks, and eats, and sleeps as a man; he thinks, and speaks, and acts like God. He was born as a man—but the angels adored him as God. As a man he ate; yet, by a word, he created food for thousands, as if he were God. Like a man he slept on a pillow, while the vessel was tossed by the waves; like God he rose, and rebuked the winds, and they were still. As a man he went, with affectionate interest, to the house of Martha and Mary. As a man he sympathized with them in their affliction, and wept at the grave of their brother; like God he spoke, and the dead came forth to the land of the living. As a man he travelled through the land of Judea. He was without a home; yet everywhere the sick were laid at his feet, and health came from his touch, and strength from the words of his lips—as if he were God. As a man he prayed in the garden of Gethsemane; he bore his

cross to Calvary; he was nailed to the tree; yet then the heavens grew dark, and the earth shook, and the dead arose—as if he were God. As a man he slept in the cold tomb; like God he rose, and brought life and immortality to light. He lived on earth as a man—he ascended to heaven like God.

And in all the life of the Redeemer, in all the variety of trying situations in which he was placed, there was not a word or action which was inconsistent with the supposition that he was the incarnate God. There was no failure of any effort to heal the sick or to raise the dead; no look, no word, no deed, that is not perfectly consistent with this supposition; but, on the contrary, his life is full of events which can be explained on no other supposition than that he was the appropriate shining forth of the Divine glory, and the exact resemblance of the essence of God.

There are not two Gods, as there are not two suns when the sun shines. It is the one God, in a mysterious and incomprehensible manner, shining into the world in the face of Jesus Christ.

“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high” (Hebrews 1:1-3). □

SICK . . .

(Continued from page 21)

The Glory of Answered Prayer and the Healing Christ

Finally, we come to the glory of answered prayer and of the healing Christ. Here we often take our first lessons in the School of Prayer, to come out of our illness with the glorious testimony, “*I cried unto the Lord ... and he heard me*” (Psa. 3:4). We learn here that there is a healing hand above all the science and means that men can employ. This does not mean we are to disregard the means of healing. Thank God for Christian physicians and nurses! We are expected to use all the offices men and medicine can offer, but to use them only as a means, and as a means in His hands who as the Great Physician is greater than His means. His very presence brings healing. How many can testify, “The Lord hath healed me!”

Whether, then, this be the first sickness or the last (so little do we know),

let us resolve we are going to get all the glory and blessing out of it there is. Then we can say with much assurance and joy:

“This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified thereby” (Jn. 11:4). □ □

MOSER . . .

(Continued from page 23)

again to Golgotha’s hill and see the suffering Christ, then prove by your actions what you think of Christ.

I want you this morning to hear Him say “Even so send I you,” then think of those opportunities to go for Jesus, that you have lost. The opportunities of telling others of His great love. I want you to hear Him say, “My Beloved,” and you answer back, yea Lord, I love Thee; and then hear Him says “Feed My Sheep.” Oh may the cross of Christ challenge you to give your all, to lay yourself on the altar, to lay aside the world and all it holds and sing, “Take the world but give me Jesus.”

Must Jesus bear the cross alone

And all the world go free?

No, there’s a cross for every one,

And there’s a cross for me.

The consecrated cross I’ll bear,

Till death shall set me free,

And then go home my crown to wear,

For there’s a crown for me.